

**Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Minutes of a Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting**

Held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Monday, 13 September 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Brian Keizer, District 1 & 2 Fire Commission, Chair
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Chief Tom Lockwood, Indian Point Fire Department
Retired Chief Steve Patterson, Cornwall Fire Department
Deputy Chief Dean Schmeisser, Dayspring & District Volunteer Fire Department
Herbert Seymour, Member-At-Large
Randy Harris, Member-At-Large
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Ex-Officio

Staff:

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy C.A.O.
Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator
Sandra Challis, Administrative Assistant

Regrets:

Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dean Schmeisser requested that the following items be added to the agenda:
Cell Coverage and Procurement of Equipment for Departments.

Moved by Deputy Chief Schmeisser, seconded by Herbert Seymour that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried Unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2021

Moved by Councillor Moore seconded by Chief Lockwood that the Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Fire & Emergency Services Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

4.1 Fire Scene Security

Mr. Kennedy was advised that the Commissionaires presented a contract to the Municipality of Chester and both Fire Services Coordinators would meet to discuss the contract with consideration of MODL's involvement.

4.2 Mutual Aid Agreement Revisions

Mr. Kennedy reported that the revisions were with the Municipal Solicitor.

4.3 Policy MDL-036 Amendments & Accessible Formatting

Amendments to Policy MDL-036, circulated with the agenda, regarding pump testing were made to accommodate departments who had lower GPM/IGP units that are only used to load/off-load water and were not used for developing fire flows for interior operations; pumps with a capacity of less than 625gpm would not be required to be tested for the annual registration package.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Deputy Chief Schmeisser that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee recommend to Council to approve the accessible formatting and amendments to MDL-036 Fire & Emergency Services Policy, as presented.

Carried unanimously.

4.4 Air Pack Certification/Turn-out Gear Safety

This item was not yet discussed at LRFES as there were no meetings.

5. L.R.F.E.S. Report

Nothing to report.

6. New Business

6.1 Award of Member Family Assistance Program

Council motion 2021-122, awarding the Fire Services Member Family Assistance Program (FSMFAP) contract to Homewood Health in the amount of \$13,125 plus HST annually for two years, and directing Staff to implement the new firefighter FSMFAP program, was circulated with the agenda. Mr. Kennedy provided a brief overview of the services offered and agreed to circulate the information to committee members. Mr. Dumaresq added that this was a more robust cover than included in the insurance package, covering counselling on a variety of topics. Committee members were urged to promote this with Departments and get the message out that this was available.

6.2 Fire Service Coordinator's Presentation

Mr. Kennedy gave a PowerPoint presentation, updating the Committee with a snapshot of 2020 and summarizing the following items:

- Fire Services Awards
- FESC priorities
- A comparison between 2019 and 2020 on information collected on the annual registration packages
- The new pump testing requirement and the new joint pump testing facility in Bridgewater
- Membership comparison between 2019 and 2020
- Fire Department Fund Raising - was \$373,329 in 2020 compared to \$691,052 in 2019. Covid negatively affected departments' ability to fundraise.
- A breakdown of call types, with medical calls showing a marked reduction due to Covid.
- The Recruitment and Retention program
- Funding to fire services outside of the area tax rates - the total funding by MODL was \$270,025 in 2020.
- Grant opportunities for Departments – Leadership Training Grant (\$5,000) and Recognition Grant (\$15,000). There is an application process for both these grants.

6.3 Housekeeping Items on Annual Registration Form

A memo detailing housekeeping items on the annual registration was circulated with the agenda. It was clarified that the request for information on Health & Safety standards was to assist the Committee in formulating health and safety standards. Removing the section from the form did not mean that standards were being eliminated.

Moved by Randy Harris seconded by Herbert Seymour that the Fire & Emergency Services Committee accept the housekeeping changes to the Annual Fire Department Registration Forms as presented. Carried unanimously.

6.4 Added Items (Deputy Chief Schmeisser)

- Cell Coverage – it was reported that cell coverage does not seem to be improving, and the east side of the LaHave is a particularly bad reception area. More residents were moving away from landlines which could be problematic in an emergency when the reliance would be on cell coverage.
- Procurement of Equipment for Departments – it was asked if there was or could be a common purchasing policy or arrangement through the Municipality for fire departments when seeking equipment.

It was agreed to add these items to the November agenda of the FESC.

7. In Camera (If Required)

8. Next Meeting – Monday, November 8th, 2021

9. Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:50 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the meeting adjourn. Carried unanimously.